

Record

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Broken bus leads to repaired lives in India

DAVANGERE, India (BP) — The brightly painted charter bus bobs and weaves through oncoming traffic as the driver searches for any opportunity — safe or not — to dart around the slow-moving truck ahead.

Suddenly the bus coasts to the side of the road, and stops.

About 30 people, mostly missions volunteers from Arkansas and Texas, are stranded. It's four hours back to Davangere, the city where they've spent a week sharing the gospel, and three hours to Bangalore, their destination for a flight home.

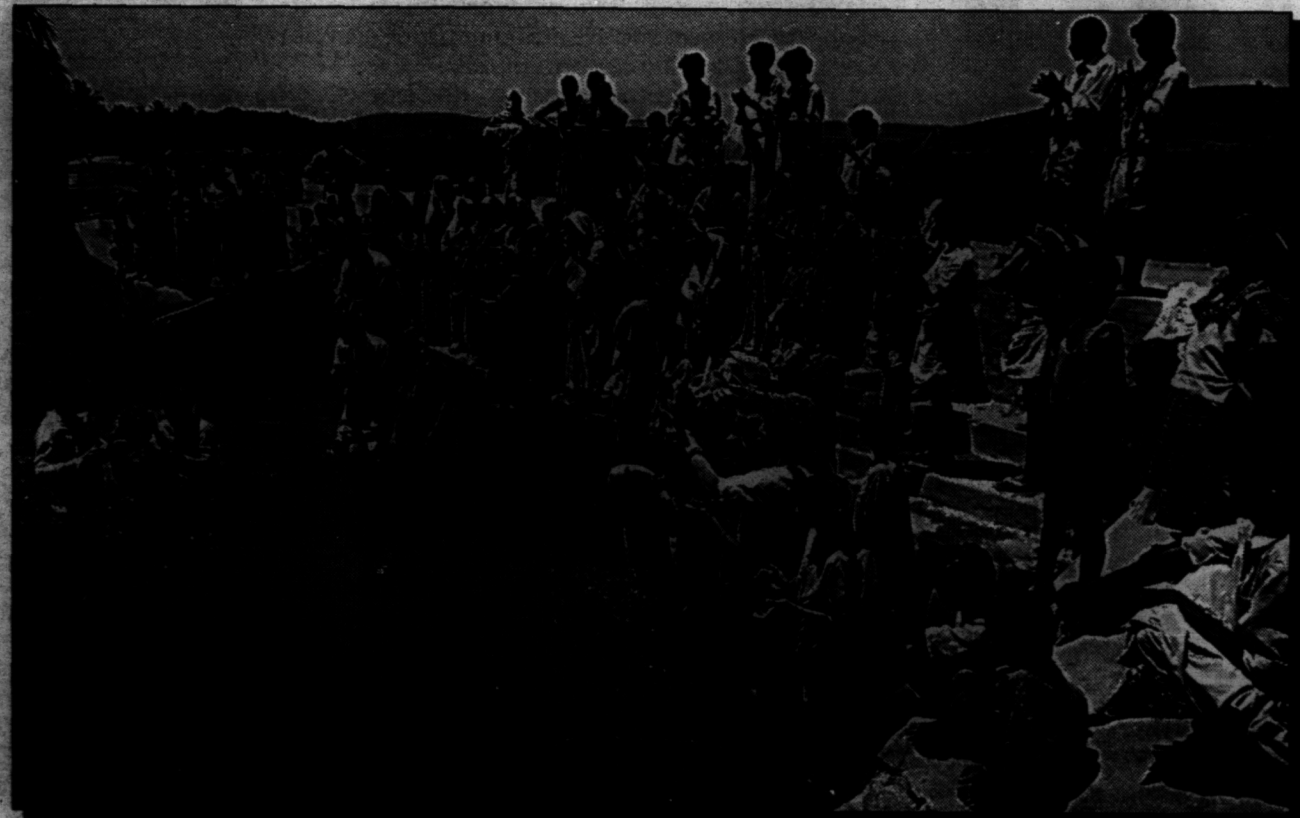
What remains of a flaming sun is now a warm orange glow setting beyond the desolate western landscape.

Without hesitation, Ron Newton rises from his seat near the front of the bus and faces those sitting behind him. He quiets them and suggests they pray.

"Lord, we're not real sure what's wrong with the bus or why it broke," he begins, "but we do know that you are in control. You know that we need to get to Bangalore. Help us have a positive attitude and remember that all things work together for good, according to your purpose."

He closes his prayer. People file off the bus. Mark Gower and Don Storts see four women sitting under a tree beyond a shrub line. Gower grabs his Bible and the pair takes off.

Five minutes later they yell for an interpreter. Out of the bush, 10 Indians congregate. Gower tells them Jesus died for their sins and how they can have eternal life by believing only in him. He asks how many would



RARE OPPORTUNITY — Not many mission volunteers get the privilege of baptizing new believers, but Arkansan Ron Newton experienced that joy following an evangelistic tent service in Telegru Camp, India. Newton was one of 14 volunteers from Arkansas and Texas to participate in an evangelistic project at Davangere, India. The group registered 1,862 decisions for Christ. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

like to follow Christ in salvation.

Five men raise hands — including the bus driver who had come over to say the bus was fixed and ready to go.

Turns out the problem was nothing more than a broken fan belt whose repair didn't even require a wrench. Back on the road, Gower beams from his seat at the back of the bus.

"God had a plan," he says. "We felt the Holy Spirit leading us to go share with those people."

Just think, five people had their names written in the Book of Life today, and all it cost us was a busted fan belt."

Volunteer Steve Nichols crowds into a straw hut with its 20 residents. He shares the gospel with the elder of the house.

The man stops him mid-sentence. Just two hours prior, the Indians had seen the "Jesus" film on television, the man said.

Now this American stranger has appeared at his house to tell

his family about this same Jesus.

"What does this all mean?" the man wondered. Nichols smiled — and led all 20 to Christ.

By week's end, 1,862 had prayed to receive Christ.

"Talk about divine appointments," he says. "When we get off our agendas and get on mission with God, people come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior."

"We've got to get his heart for people."

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Mississippians appointed

Pastor pay studied

Baptists aid in Georges

SWBTS trustee accused

SBCNet to close in January

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — SBCNet, a private forum for Southern Baptists on the CompuServe computer network, will close Jan. 1, 1999, LifeWay Christian Resources officials have announced.

A pioneer in providing on-line services to Southern Baptists, SBCNet was launched by LifeWay in 1991. Several SBC agencies and institutions have provided news, information, and ministry and missions helps via the network. In its heyday, more than 7,500 people subscribed to the forum for a monthly fee.

Recent actions by America Online, which purchased CompuServe earlier this year, influenced LifeWay's decision to terminate the service, Haywood said. He pointed to AOL's sponsorship of "The Howard Stern Show," a graphic and adult-oriented talk show; and its decision to filter the American Family Association's Web site (www.afa.net) using "CyberPatrol."

"These changes are such that it is no longer in the best interest of LifeWay Christian Resources and the Southern Baptist Convention to continue a relationship with CompuServe/AOL," Haywood said.

Looking back

10 years ago

The family of Virginia Wilson Searight and the late Thomas P. Wilson of Senatobia donate a parcel of land to the Baptist Student Union (BSU) of Northwest Community College in Senatobia for construction of a new student center, according to Northwest BSU director Rick Alford.

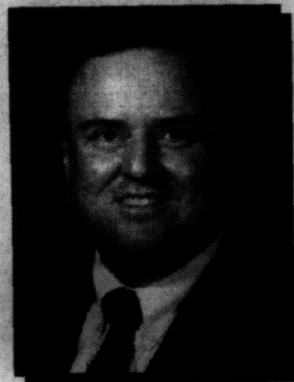
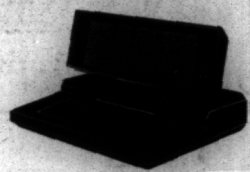
20 years ago

Porter Routh, executive-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) executive committee, is the featured speaker at Lowndes Association's annual meeting at Immanuel Church in Columbus. Routh spoke on the Bold Mission Thrust campaign.

50 years ago

The Chinese Mission of Greenville is now meeting in the new education building of First Church, Greenville, at 2:30 each Sunday afternoon. With a WMU group of around 20 people, 15 GAs, 12 RAs, and a Sunbeam Band, spiritual and social needs are being met, according to sponsors.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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A mighty convention, poorly attended

Messengers from churches all across the state gathered Oct. 28-29, 1997, at First Church, Jackson, for what has been termed one of the most harmonious Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meetings that anyone can remember.

Given the strained relationships and harsh words in many of our sister Southern Baptist state conventions, that's no small accomplishment. No one else lays aside egos and personal agendas like Mississippi Baptists when it comes to the work of our Savior.

A record \$25.5 million Cooperative Program budget was adopted without a dissenting vote. How many years have Mississippi Baptists approved a record budget, and then exceeded that budget? One loses count.

Bold stands were taken in the form of resolutions approved without a dissenting vote:

- ♦ Standing up for persecuted Christians around the world in the same week our timid national leaders entertained and commended the dictator of the most barbaric anti-religion government in the world.

- ♦ Calling for a month of prayer and observances in January 1998 to mark the 25th anniversary of the most barbaric act of our own government, the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions that legalized abortion on demand.

- ♦ Challenging Christians to get back to the business of using Sundays to win lost people to Christ instead of simply entertaining ourselves.

Preaching, testimonies, Bible Treasures, and singing stirred the soul and motivated the spirit.

It's too bad more Miss. Baptists weren't there to hear it.

One attendance issue is that the number of registered messengers has steadily declined for several years. The annual meeting that once drew around 1,800 messengers now fails to top 1,500.



1997 Mississippi Baptist Convention, closing session

The 1,476 registered messengers at the 1997 meeting represented a drop of nearly 10% in only one year. Those are disturbing numbers that need to be turned around.

The 1997's business sessions were generally well-attended, especially when a contested race for office was held.

The Oct. 28 business session that included the presidential election was packed, with many people standing around the walls on the floor level of the cavernous First Church sanctuary. A lot of folks made the effort to get there for that session, but what a difference 24 hours can make.

At the closing session of the convention on the following morning, a rock could have been thrown clear across the sanctuary with only minimal risk of hitting anyone.

True, the closing session didn't have a hot political race but it did contain an inspiring message from one of Southern

Baptists' most influential leaders: Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary — our adopted "Mississippi seminary." Only a handful were present to hear him.

The same scenario has occurred for several years, resulting in virtual snubs to speakers such as Denton Lotz, head of the Baptist World Alliance, and Truett Cathey, founder and president of Chick-Fil-A.

We can do better. If we have determined that we are going to be the brightest beacon on the highest hill, that includes attending our state convention from start to finish.

Doing so is the only decent and respectful way to hold a state Baptist convention. At the 1998 annual meeting, let's set the standard in yet another category of Southern Baptist life.

See you there!

Adapted from a Nov. 6, 1997 editorial.

What is your mindset about bivocational ministry? The bivocational minister has two careers — a church-related responsibility and a marketplace or "other" work.

The monovocational minister has one career and receives his living wages from the church. "Fully-supported" is an appropriate term to describe this ministry and not the incorrect term, "full-time ministry."

Bivocational pastors are full-time because they serve a local church twenty-four hours a day. Often bivo ministers are called "twice-blessed, double-duty or working preachers."

Both methods are biblical, historical, practical, and effective. Both are needed to fulfill the Great Commission.

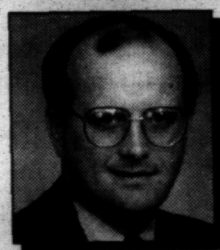
Who decides which method should be used? First, the church will often make this decision based on size, tradition, and situation.

Secondly, the minister himself may choose the bivo method.

The prevalence of small churches, the various benefits of bivo ministry, the need for new churches and personal reasons challenge men to choose this method.

Thirdly, the ministry situa-

GUEST OPINION



Bivo pastorates: a good choice!

By Matt Buckles, consultant
MBCB Church Administration Dept.

tion may determine the method. A new start, a declining situation, a growing ministry, limited budgets, and specific community needs challenge both churches and ministers to choose the bivo method.

Many churches should consider this other method of ministry.

Some churches cannot or will not adequately support the minister and his family. In other situations the bivo minister or church may need to become fully-supported.

Regardless of the method chosen, the integrity of the gospel work does not have to be compromised. Good decisions can be made by minister and church.

Consider these three needs.

- Acceptance of one another is essential. Fully-supported and bivo brothers should not feel superior to each other.

The motive in one's heart is more important than the method of one's ministry.

- Affirmation of men and women serving by each method

should occur. Churches should affirm God-called gospel ministers.

- Appreciation should be given to minister(s) regardless of their ministry. Appropriate appreciation is always good for the minister and his family.

God calls some to the bivo method and to bivo situations. When bivo ministers serve God faithfully in the church and in the marketplace ethically, a great witness for Jesus Christ is given.

God calls many to fully-supported staff positions where they are effective and have Christ-honoring ministries. He expects all to be dedicated to him who called them in salvation, to gospel service, and to a situation.

Good fellowship and support can encourage all ministers to remain faithful to God. Also, continuing education enables men and women to be more effective in gospel work.

Several study options are available. For more information on bivocational ministry and staff appreciation ideas, you can request the free and new brochure, *Vocational or Bivocational: The Church & Its Choices*, by contacting me at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Dunn departing BJC for Wake Forest professorship

GREEN LAKE, Wis. (ABP) — James Dunn has announced he will step aside from his role as executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee (BJC) by Sept. 1, 1999, when he will become a visiting professor of Christianity and Public Policy at the Wake Forest University Divinity School in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Dunn, who has headed the BJC since January 1981, told the agency's directors he would stay on after that date on a part-time basis.

He pledged to continue to serve the religious-liberty agency "in a different role as long as my health, my successor, and our mutual understanding of the Lord's leading allow me to do so."

During their annual meeting, Oct. 5-6 in Green Lake, Wis., the BJC directors accepted Dunn's proposal. They named an 11-member search committee and a five-person committee to determine the title, com-

pensation, and related details of Dunn's reduced role.

BJC chairman Aidsand Wright-Riggins said Dunn "has been the most dynamic personality for religious liberty in the United States over the past 18 years. The vacuum created by his announcement is a very huge space largely due to his perspective, his political savvy, his persistence."

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Coordinator Daniel Vestal said Dunn "was and is a Baptist statesman, a prophetic voice, and a caring person. Only time will tell and the historical record will show his impact of Baptist life at a tumultuous and transitional time. I'm grateful to be called his friend."

At Wake Forest, Dunn will teach an elective course titled "Christianity and Public Policy," according to Bill Leonard, dean of the divinity school.

Dunn will be part of a five-person faculty when the divini-

ty school opens next fall. He will be joined by renowned Hebrew scholar Phyllis Trible; theologian Frank Tupper, a former colleague of Leonard's at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and church history and spirituality expert Father Samuel Weber, a Roman Catholic priest and Benedictine monk.

Leonard said the school will open with 35 students and is expected to grow to 135-150 students within three years.

Dunn's tenure at the Baptist Joint Committee coincided with more than a decade of unrest that left conservatives in power in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), one of the founding bodies of the BJC.

The BJC's refusal to back new SBC positions on issues such as school prayer was among disputes that led to that denomination severing ties with the agency in 1991.

Named to an 11-member committee to complete the search for

a new executive director were Aidsand Wright-Riggins; Daniel Weiss, general secretary, ABC/USA; Elaine Smith, a Washington, D.C. attorney; Daniel Vestal; Marion Grant from Raleigh, N.C.; Reginald McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia; Patricia Ayres of Austin, Texas; Phil Strickland, director of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; Robert Ricker, president of the Baptist General Conference; Marvin Griffin, pastor of Ebenezer Church, Austin, Texas; and a representative to be named later from the North American Baptist Conference.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

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Mississippians receive IMB appointments

RICHMOND, Va. — Carroll A. Golden and Mitzi Leonard Golden; Phillip E. Lyons and Teresa H. Bass Lyons; and Guy M. Riley and Julie Turner Riley have joined the nearly 4,300 International Mission Board (IMB) workers sharing Christ in 125 countries among 336 ethnic people groups.

They were among 67 people appointed by the IMB Sept. 15 during a service in the Alumni Memorial Chapel at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

The Goldenes will live in Mexico. In 1880 Mexico became the first Latin American country where Southern Baptist representatives were assigned to work.

He will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1996 he has been pastor of First Church in LaFollette, Tenn.

Born in Mineral Wells, Texas, he considers Texas his home state and First Church in LaFollette his home church.

He received degrees from Texas Tech University in Lubbock and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and the doctor of ministry degree from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson.

He also attended Southern Seminary.

He was pastor of First Church in Galax, Va., and First Church in Seymour, Tenn. He also made mission trips to Tanzania and Mexico.

Born in Muleshoe, Texas, Mitzi Golden also considers Texas her home state and First Church in LaFollette her home church.

The Goldenes have three grown children.

As missionary associates the Lyonses will live in West Africa.

Since 1993 he has been pastor of Ebenezer Church in Hernando, Miss.

Born and reared in Fernandina Beach, Fla., Phillip Lyons considers Five Points

Church there his home church.

He received degrees from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville and Mid-America Seminary in Germantown, Tenn. He also attended Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.

He was youth minister at First Church in West Memphis, Ark., and Gray Gables Church in Callahan, Fla.; and a carpenter for Lyons Construction Co. Inc. in Fernandina Beach.

Born in Rogersville, Tenn., Teresa Lyons considers Knoxville her hometown and Sevier Heights Church there her home church.

The Lyonses have five children

As missionary associates the Rileys will live in Russia.

Since starting work in Russia in 1993, Southern Baptists have been able to plant more than 250 churches.

He will work as a volunteer coordinator and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1993 he has been youth minister at Pine Drive Church and high school principal at Pine Drive Christian School in Dickinson, Texas.

Born in Pasadena, Texas, Guy Riley lived in Kemah and League City, Texas. He considers Dickinson his hometown and Pine Drive Church his home church.

He received a degree from Arlington (Texas) Baptist College. He also attended College of the Mainland in Texas City, Texas, and the University of Houston.

He was associate pastor of Grace Church in League City and pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Alief, Texas.

Born in Joplin, Mo., Julie Riley is the daughter of Larry and Pat Turner of Ingleside, Texas.

She lived in Pine Bluff, Ark.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Gautier, Miss.; Rosenberg, Texas; and League City.

She considers Dickinson her hometown and Pine Drive Church her home church.

South Center Church in Arlington also was influential in her Christian growth.

She attended the Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga and Arlington Baptist College.

She was a teacher for Tabernacle Church in Gautier.

The Rileys have two children.



The Goldenes



The Lyonses

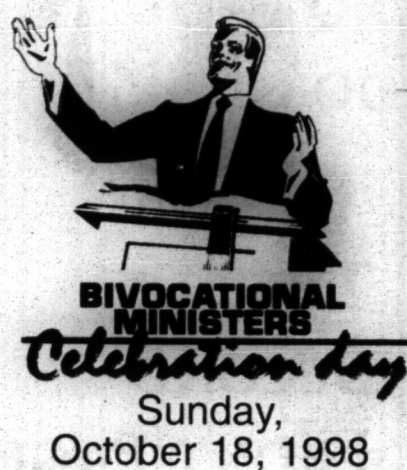


The Rileys

MBC housing list published

Listed below are room rates of some of the motels easily accessible to downtown Jackson for the Mississippi Baptist Convention (prices do not include tax). Please mention that you will be attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention when making reservations.

Cabot Lodge I-55 at County Line Rd. 120 Dyess Rd., Ridgeland, MS 39157 (601) 957-0757	\$69.00	flat rate for up to 4 people king-size or 2 double beds
Cabot Lodge-Millsaps State St. at Woodrow Wilson 2375 North State, Jackson (601) 948-8650 or 1-800-874-4737	\$66.00 \$70.00 (includes complimentary breakfast)	double beds or king king-size
Coliseum Ramada Inn I-55 North (between Pearl & High St. exits) Jackson (601) 969-2141	\$55.00	flat rate for up to 4 people king or double beds
Comfort Suites 6485 I-55 N, Ridgeland (601) 977-6111	\$63.00	flat rate - single or double
Edison Walthall 225 E. Capitol, Jackson (601) 948-6161	\$65.00 \$75.00	single double
Hampton Inn & Suites 320 Greymont Ave., Jackson (601) 352-1700	\$72.00 (includes complimentary breakfast)	flat rate - single or double
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites I-55 and High St., Jackson (formerly The Wilson Inn) (601) 948-4466	\$65.00 (includes complimentary breakfast)	2 king-size beds



Miss. bivo pastors' compensation on rise

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Part one of a series

Mississippi bivocational pastors receive higher than average remuneration, while bivocational pastors at large lead in the growth of pastors' compensation over the past two years, a new study shows.

A 13-state compensation study compiled by Don Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department, shows that on average, Southern Baptist pastors' pay has increased 8.8% in the last two years.

However, bivocational pastors — those who preach part-time while holding down another job — have seen a 12% increase over two years ago.

States participating in the 1998 Compensation Study were Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Virginia.

The average bivoca-

tional pastor in the states surveyed received salary and housing of \$11,807. In Mississippi, the 90 bivocational and student pastors who responded to the survey showed an average basic compensation (salary plus housing) of \$12,125, which is 2.7% or \$318 higher.

There are approximately 800 bivocational pastors in Mississippi, according to Matt Buckles, consultant for the church administration/pastoral ministries department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Included in the category of bivocational workers are student pastors and retired pastors, Buckles indicated.

In benefits, Mississippi bivocational pastors are ahead in some areas and

behind in others, according to the study. Benefits include such items as retirement, health, life, and disability insurance.

Among the 13 states, 33.6% of the bivocational churches contribute to their pastor's retirement, while in Mississippi only 27.8% contribute.

Yet, almost 19% of Mississippi churches include medical insurance as a benefit for their pastors, while among the other states only 6.9% do.

In other areas, 37.8% of Mississippi bivocational pastors receive car expense reimbursement; 20% receive reimbursement for attending denominational conventions, and 13.3% receive a reimbursement for books, tapes, and periodicals.

Associated Baptist Press contributed to this story.

MISS. BIVO PASTORS BASIC COMPENSATION (SALARY + HOUSING)

AVG. SS ATTEND.	# OF CHURCHES	AVERAGE	HIGH	LOW
1 - 25	21	\$ 8,939	\$ 17,350	\$ 500
26 - 50	40	12,119	21,900	450
51 - 75	17	14,746	22,800	6,620
76 - 100	8	13,531	22,200	7,500
101 & up	3	15,359	23,640	10,000

Source: 1998 Compensation Study, MBCB Church-Minister Relations Dept.

Study: pastors' pay heading in right direction

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Compensation for the average Southern Baptist pastor has grown 8.8% during the last two years, according to a study conducted in 13 states.

Ministers are still paid less than workers in other fields with comparable skills, said Don Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department.

"It's a matter of trying to bring things more in line with what compensation ought to be," Spencer said. "We've still got a long way to go, but this is a definite step in the right direction."

Spencer said paying pastors and other staff members adequately not only helps the minister but benefits the church as well. Ministers who are underpaid must spend more time seeking outside income or managing finances, he said, and that detracts from time for ministry.

According to the study, the average full-time Southern Baptist pastor earns \$36,046 in salary and housing allowance, up from \$33,125 in 1996.

Compensation for full-time pastors varies significantly by church budget and congregational size. More than three-fourths of the churches included in the survey average fewer than 250 in attendance.

Pastors in larger churches fare better than the norm. Churches with an average attendance between 251 and 300 pay their senior pastor an average of \$43,607 in salary and housing. With an average attendance between 401 and 600, the figure rises to \$55,036. Among the 38 churches in the survey with an average attendance over 1,000, the pastor receives an average salary of \$85,066.

Churches with an attendance between 126 and 150 pay an average of \$32,966. Between 101 and 125, it drops to \$30,914. For 76-100, the average salary is \$28,162. For under 75, it is \$24,406.

The highest salary reported for a full-time pastor is \$162,000. The lowest is \$4,200.

On average, churches spend \$7,357 a year in addition to salary and housing to provide for their pastor benefits such as medical insurance, life insurance, annuity contributions, and Social Security equivalency payments.

That brings the average pay and benefits package for a Southern Baptist pastor to \$43,403.

Of the 3,843 full-time pastors responding to the survey, 80% said they receive contributions toward a retirement fund, an average of \$3,176 per year. Medical insurance is provided for 73% of full-time pastors, life insurance for 56% and disability

insurance for 45%.

Compared with other fields, ministers — who often are college graduates with a master's or doctor's degrees from a university or seminary — appear to lag behind those with similar education levels.

According to the U.S. Commerce Department, the average male American with a high-school education earned an average salary of \$29,624 in 1994, compared to \$52,193 for college graduates and \$62,368 for those with a master's degree.

MBC auxiliary meetings

Blue Mountain College Ministerial Alumnae dinner: Tuesday, Oct. 27; 5:30 p.m.; Broadmoor Church, Jackson. Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased at the BMC booth or from Wayne Marshall or James Lewis. For more information contact Marshall at (601) 895-1900.

New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) alumni luncheon: Oct. 27; First Church, Jackson; Chuck Kelley, president of NOBTS, will be the guest speaker. For more information call Nathan Barber at (601) 264-5294 or 264-2427.

The Scholars teach here.

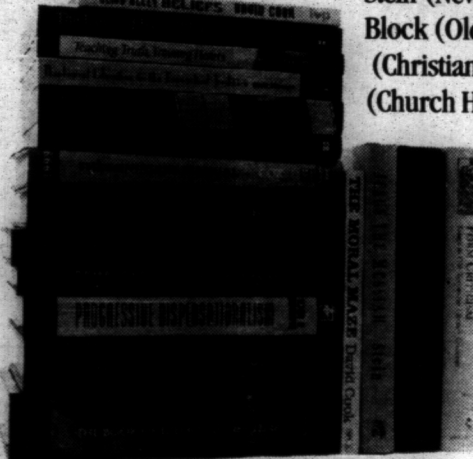
Most seminaries will have you read good books. But at Southern Seminary, you'll sit in classes taught by the authors.

That's because professors in our School of Theology are writing the texts that are setting the pace in theological education. Robert

Stein (New Testament), Daniel Block (Old Testament), Daniel Akin (Christian Theology), Tom Nettles (Church History), and David Cook

(Christian Ethics) are some of Southern's professors who bring their scholarship to the classroom.

If you'd like to study with scholars of evangelical conviction, Southern Seminary is the obvious choice.

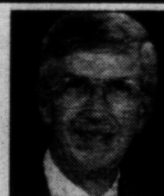


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For more information call 1 800 626-5525, ext. 4143.

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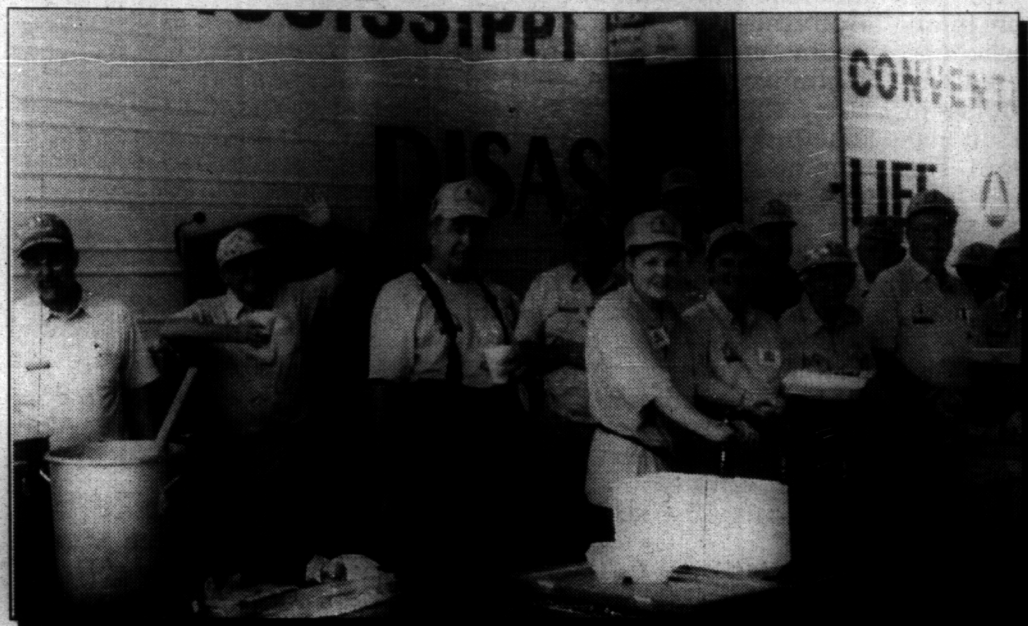
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OPEN DATES - SPRING 1999

JANUARY 10, 31
MARCH 21, 28
APRIL 18, 25
MAY 9, 16, 30

Call about other 1999 dates!

Miss. Baptists answer hurricane relief call |



A Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force crew (above left photo) takes a break during a 16-hour work day on the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Georges blew through. Dozens of volunteers served during the 16-day callup of the ministry in Jackson and on the Gulf Coast. Jerry Bishop (above right photo, from left), pastor of Linwood Church, Neshoba County; Candace Mullins, a member of Corinth Church, Magee; and Bill Purvis, lay member of Ethel Church, Ethel, perform one of the disaster relief ministry's most strenuous tasks — unloading cases of food. Purvis, (right photo, from bottom), Bishop, and Don Warren, deacon at Daniel Memorial Church in Jackson who served as videographer for a segment of *Vessels*, Mississippi Baptists' videomagazine, unload drinking water. Between shooting assignments, Warren helped fill the 750-gallon water tank after hose connections from a military water truck failed and task force members had to load the tank by hand. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)

Calvary Church steeple toppled for third time

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communication Director

Calvary Church in Pascagoula has lost its third steeple in three hurricanes — Elena in 1979, Frederic in 1986, and now Georges.

Calvary Church secretary Flo Welch said the church suffered extensive water damage in the educational building with flooding on the second floor.

Other churches with water or other damage included Franklin Creek and its parsonage and First Church, Orange Grove, and its parsonage, each with 16-20 inches of water inside.

First Church, Gautier, lost large portions of its sanctuary and education building roofs. Hugh Smith, youth minister, said two inches of water entered the education building's first floor from the second floor.

Bob Storie, Jackson County Associational and MBCB staffer had 95% of his home destroyed. Flood waters moved the house off its foundation.

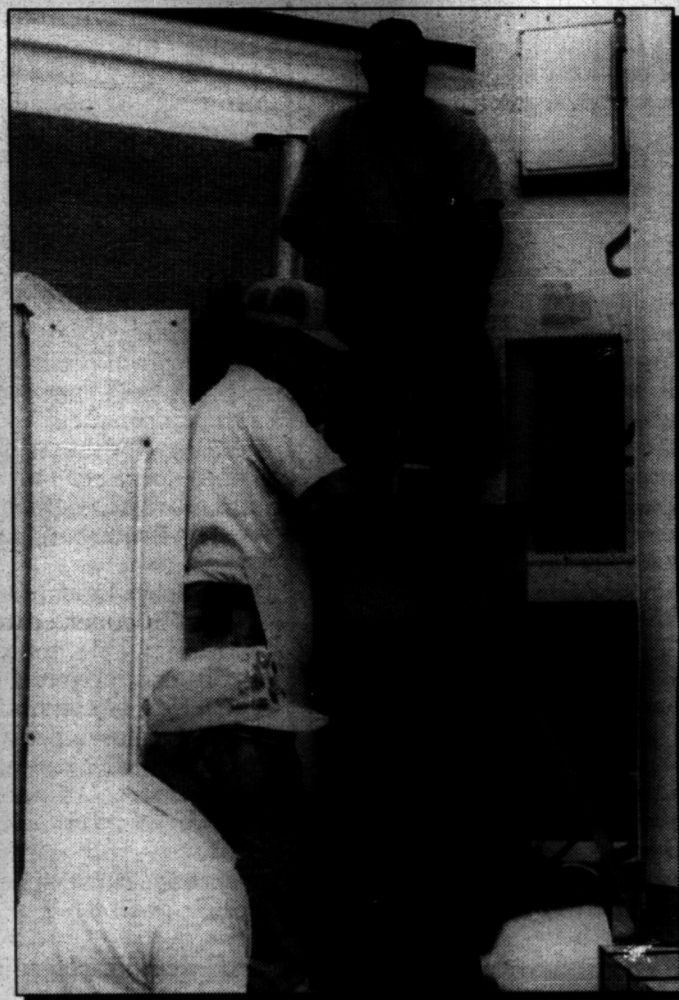
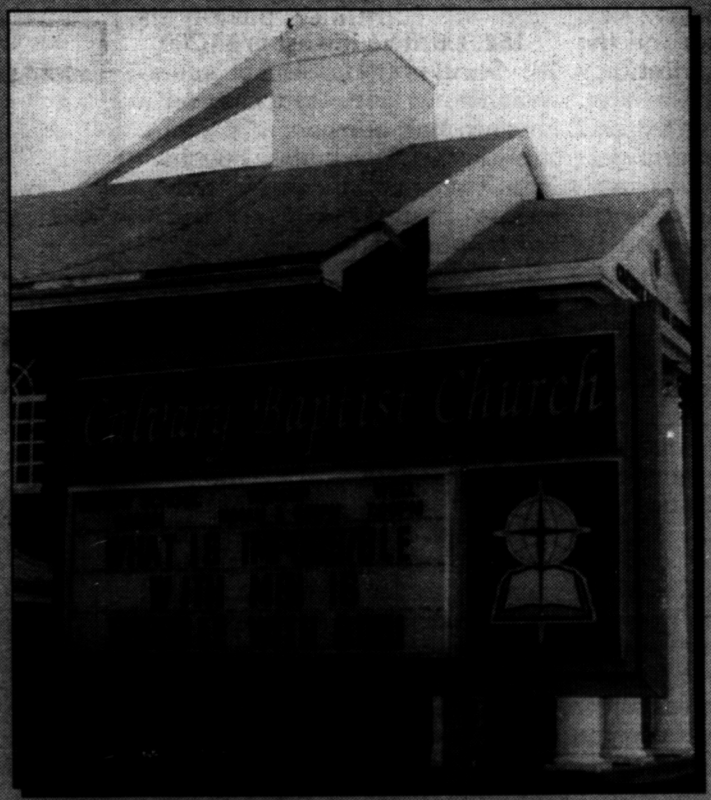
Riverside Church, Pascagoula, lost part of the front of its building, and Pass Road Church, Gulfport, had a block wall in the education building fall in.

Other Gulf Coast churches with varying amounts of damage included First, Helena; Arlington Heights (lost a steeple); East Lawn; Bel Aire; Big Level; Big Ridge; Brodie Road; Commission Road; East Howard; Fernwood; Gulf Gardens; the international Baptist Fellowship; Michael Memorial; New Hope; Mississippi Korean; the Vietnamese church; and First, Wiggins.

Full reports were incomplete at publication deadline. Churches are invited to notify The Baptist Record about damages sustained so a comprehensive list can be published.

The Baptist Record also requests that church-based shelter facilities also be reported for a future listing.

The newspaper may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: Missrecord@aol.com.



SBC budget process, name change debated at executive comm.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The possibility of changing the name of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and the approval of a new two-year budgeting process for the Cooperative Program (CP) Allocation Budget were the focus of the Sept. 21-22 meeting of the SBC executive committee.

Seeking to act on two motions from the Salt Lake City annual meeting of the SBC this

summer, the executive committee finally decided to postpone any action until its staff could assemble a strategy for examining the possibility of a convention name change. One referred motion from Salt Lake City asked for the executive committee to conduct a feasibility study while a second motion sought to change the SBC name to Baptist Convention of North America.

A revised report of the

Budget Process Study Committee was adopted by the Executive Committee, which means beginning with the recommendation to next year's annual meeting in Atlanta, the CP Allocation Budget would be for "a fixed percentage for each entity for a two-year period." The actual recommendation will be hammered out at the February meeting of the Executive Committee.

If, as expected, the SBC's 1990-2000 Capital Needs Budget is paid in full next year, then thereafter all CP receipts, including any amount over the budget, would be distributed according to the normal CP Allocation Budget formula. Presently, 50% of any overage is distributed according to the regular budget formula and the other 50% is distributed according to the Capital Needs Budget.

Septuplet dad to visit Jackson

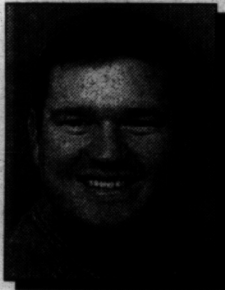
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Remember Bobbi and Kenny McCaughey? The couple who made frenzied headlines about a year ago by becoming the world's first parents of surviving septuplets?

Dad Kenny will visit First Church, Jackson, on Oct. 25 as part of the church's special month-long homecoming celebration.

McCaughey will speak at the church's 9:40 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services, and will also be available to autograph copies of the book he and his wife wrote about their life-changing experience.

The pair also tell their story in HomeLife magazine's November issue. HomeLife is a publication of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

HomeLife editor Jon Walker said he knew the McCaugheys were granting very few interviews, but he went after their story anyway because "November marks the septuplets' first birthday, and we thought that would bring increased interest in how the family is doing."



McCaughey

Holly Deanna Norwood (Dee), a sophomore business administration major at William Carey College, is the recipient of the United Parcel Services (UPS) award. She received the scholarship and the designation of UPS Scholar based on her outstanding academic record. She is the daughter of Jerry and Mary Ann Norwood of Pelahatchie.



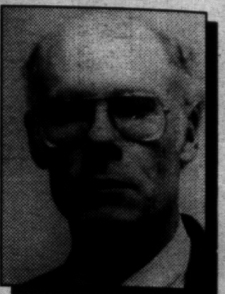
Norwood

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the Dec. 5th offering of the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). The course which offers 16 instructional hours of review is scheduled to begin Nov. 17 and conclude on Dec. 3. For more information on cost and schedule, call 925-3264. Also offered will be an introductory course in Drawing through its adult cultural enrichment program. The class will begin on Oct. 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will run for five consecutive Thursdays. For registration information, call (601) 925-3301.

Homecoming Weekend 1998 will be held Oct. 16 and Oct. 17 at Mississippi College (MC). Activities on Friday will include the golf tournament, 1 p.m., at Live Oaks Golf Club in Clinton; A.A. Kitchings Tennis Cup will be held at 1 p.m. on the MC tennis courts; a Follies program is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in Swor Auditorium; SGA homecoming buffet will be at 9:30 p.m. in Jennings Courtyard; and open house for the '50's alumni is planned for 7-10:30 p.m. in the home of George

and Alicia Pittman in Clinton. Activities on Saturday will begin with registration in Alumni Hall from 9-11:30 a.m.; the Hillman Alumnae meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. off campus; 50 Year Club will meet at 10 a.m. in the A.E. Wood Coliseum; the homecoming awards luncheon will be held at noon; and the homecoming parade will begin at 2 p.m. on College Street. For more information call 925-3208. For ticket information for the Choctaws vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor University football game, call 925-3341.

Mississippi College has announced that Edward Valente, professor of Chemistry, has been chosen the 1998 Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer of the College of Arts and Sciences. Valente's lecture, entitled "The Disease of Curiosity: Experiments," will be presented Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room of the B.C. Rogers Student Center. A native of San Francisco, Valente is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and University of Washington. For more information call the office of public relations at (601) 925-3239.



Valente

Mississippi College Music Department will present Dana Roppolo Rice of Houma, La., in a faculty recital on Oct. 22 at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. Rice is a graduate of Baylor and Florida State University with additional study at the University of Nevada and the University of Southern Mississippi.

HOMECOMINGS

Chunky (Newton): Oct. 18; 33rd anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in family life building; Bowman "Bill" Giles, guest speaker; The Ridgeways and Rowzees, guest singers; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Yellow Leaf, Oxford: Oct. 18; 145th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish in the Christian Activity Center at noon; followed by afternoon singing and a time of sharing by former staff members and former members who are now pastors; Joe Lamb, former member, guest speaker; Bryan Bailey, pastor.

Holcomb, Holcomb: Oct. 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; followed by morning message by Larry Edwards; dinner in fellowship hall; 1:30 p.m. singing; Randall Ashley, pastor.

Cherry Street, Clarksdale: Oct. 18; second annual homecoming; services, 10 a.m., lunch, and afternoon singing; David Rumsey, guest speaker.

Jayess, Jayess: Oct. 18; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; noon meal; afternoon singing featuring the Graves Sisters and Midnight Cry; Fred Fowler, former pastor, guest speaker.

Oak Grove (Neshoba): Oct. 25; 106th anniversary; 10:30 a.m.; Wayne O. Burkes, commissioner, Central District, Department of Transportation, speaker; Lamar and Amye Ethredge, music; D. W. and Ora Green, special music; Paul H. Leber, pastor.

Mt. Carmel, Edinburg: Oct. 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing featuring the Pilgrim Family, Edinburg; Sonny Kelly, former pastor, guest speaker; Keith Fulton, pastor.

New Hope, Sumrall: Oct. 25; 165th anniversary; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, 12:10 p.m.; 1:20 p.m. singing; Greg Clemts, Belzoni, guest speaker; Keith M. Thompson, pastor.

Mount Vernon (Holmes): Oct. 18; Gene Richardson, guest speaker; Jo Styron will sing at 10:30 a.m. service; lunch at noon; H. C. Adams, pastor.

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GOD for US

Sunday, October 25
6:00 p.m.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy & peace in believing that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE
for all seasons

CREATED BY:

DON MOEN • JACK HAYFORD • TOM FETTER
CAMP KIRKLAND • RANDY VADER • JAY ROUSE

787 E. Northside Drive, Jackson, Mississippi
Dr. Jim Futral, Executive Director/Treasurer, MBCB
Rev. Mike Harland, Worship Leader

For Ticket Information
Call (601) 362-0305

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 15, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Lay Missions Conference

First Baptist Church, Jackson, October 26, 1998

Interest Conferences - 3 pm

- Agricultural Missions
- Construction Projects
- Educational Missions
- Partnership Missions
- Sports Evangelism
- Volunteers in Missions



Banquet 5 pm

- Dinner
- Music
- Volunteer Recognitions
- Testimonies
- Message



George Komendant
Executive Director
Ukraine Baptist Union



Jeff Brantley
Professional Baseball
Pitcher, St. Louis Cardinals

Registration Form

Make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ dinner reservations at \$8 per person.

Sponsored by Witness Team Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Mail to: Brotherhood Department • Missions Banquet • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530

*"Lord, I Will
Serve You In My
Marketplace"*

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON • MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1998 • 1:00-4:30 P.M.

- Inspiration, Fellowship, Personal Growth, Information, and Support for the Minister's Wife!
- There is no cost to you for this conference.

• Child care will be provided for preschoolers on a limited basis. Please use the registration form to schedule child care by October 19.

featuring



Melinda Yessick
Nashville - First Place leader,
teacher, conference leader,
Lifeway Christian Resources



Tommy Yessick
Nashville - Wellness-Leader
Care consultant, Lifeway
Christian Resources

Registration Form

Complete the registration form and return to Julius C. Thompson, Church Administration-
Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Name _____ Home Phone No. _____

Church _____ Association _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Husband's Position _____

Names and birth dates of preschool children you will bring _____

1999 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir



October '98 Choral Auditions

22nd	5-8 p.m.	Mount Vernon BC, Columbus
24th	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Harrisburg BC, Tupelo
26th	5-8 p.m.	FBC, Natchez
31st	9 a.m.-noon	Baptist Building

November '98 Choral Auditions

2nd	5-8 p.m.	Clarksdale BC, Clarksdale
7th	10 a.m.-noon	FBC, Ocean Springs
14th	12-2 p.m.	FBC, Summit
16th	5-8 p.m.	FBC, Meridian

November '98 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

19th	5-8 p.m.	Thomas Fine Arts Building, William Carey College, Hattiesburg
20th	5-8 p.m.	Alta Woods BC, Jackson
21st	12-4 p.m. 12-3 p.m.	North Oxford BC, Oxford (instrumentalists)

(NOTE: ALL instrumentalists will be expected

1999 Rehearsal Camp and Tour — June 3-11

Rehearsal Camp at William Carey College

Choir auditions will include:

- A personal interview including testimony
- A hymn solo (1 stanza; no tapes)
- Sight reading
- Tonal Memory
- Singing their voice part from a hymn (all girls will sing the alto part)

Instrumental auditions will include:

- A prepared piece
- Scales
- Sight reading
- Technique and tune

Register through the Church Music Department
two weeks prior to audition.

Contact Church Music Department
for applications: 1-800-748-1651

Two great MUSIC CAMPS for older children in '99



Paint this on Your
CALENDAR

GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY JUNE 29 - JULY 3

Conference Clinician: Don Odom
Associate professor of voice
Florida Baptist Theological College
Graceville, Fla.
Accommodates 500 — Cost \$128.50 each

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE JULY 26 - JULY 30

Conference Clinician: Kay Payton
Texas state music specialist
First Baptist Church
Round Rock, Tex.
Accommodates 135 — Cost \$100.00 each

Both camps
feature

- ♪ Worship Services
- ♪ Music Classes
- ♪ Crafts
- ♪ Water Games
- ♪ Concert on Final Evening
- ♪ Spiritual Emphasis Classes
- ♪ Swimming
- ♪ Ping-Pong Tournaments
- ♪ Many Other Fun Activities

Sponsored by the Church Music Department, MBCB
Call 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651 for more information

Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Association Annual Fall Banquet

"Grow in Spiritual Power"

Tuesday, October 27, 5:00 p.m.
Skyroom, Baptist Building, Jackson

Speaker: George Pickle

Director, Healthcare Chaplaincy and
Pastoral Counseling, Chaplaincy Division
North American Mission Board

Music: Gene Roster

All chaplains, volunteer and career
are invited to join us for good food and fellowship.

Banquet tickets are \$10 per person and may be ordered from
Missions Extension and Associational Administration, MBCB.

For more information, contact Richard Brogan at
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Annual Banquet

Please send _____ tickets @ \$10 each. Amount enc.: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to MBCB
and mail to:

MEAA, Chaplains
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

1998

Youth Ministers Conference

Featuring:
Benny Proffitt
Jerry Pounds
Gayne Pounds
Chris Davis

November 9-11, 1998

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville

Registration form
Youth Ministers Conference, November 9-11, 1998
Lake Tiak O'Khata

Name _____ Position _____

Spouse's first name, if attending _____

Number and Age of Preschool Children, if attending _____

Church Name _____ Association Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Office Phone Number _____ Home Phone Number _____

☐ I have made reservations at Lake Tiak O'Khata

☐ I will not need a room, but will plan to eat the following meals:

☐ Monday Dinner

☐ Tuesday Dinner

☐ Tuesday Breakfast

☐ Wednesday Breakfast

☐ Tuesday Lunch

Call Lake Tiak O'Khata (Toll free 1-888-845-6151) or write Lake Tiak O'Khata, P. O. Box 160,
Louisville, MS 39339.

Complete the form and return to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department,
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, no later than November 2, 1998. It is necessary that your
registration be received by this date so that adequate preparation can be made.

SPONSORED BY THE
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION-PASTORAL MINISTRIES DEPT.
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 22, 1998
First Baptist Church, Natchez
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Introduction
Cajun Preacher

Glenn Shows
Mickey Bounds
Vicksburg

7:30

Refreshments

7:45

Conferences:
"Leading Family Ministries in Church"

Phil Waugh
Author, Nashville
Dennis Lyle
Nashville

"Forward Together"
(Leadership for Senior Adults)

"Start a Revolution"
(Leadership for Single Adults)

Cliff Steward
Minister with Singles

Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, La.

"Overview of Making Love Last Forever"

Glenn Shows

Mississippi Baptist Convention

Small Book Store will be available

For more info, contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept., MBCB, 1-800-748-1651



"Becoming A Friend and Lover Conference"



With Dick Purnell

President of Single Life Resources

Saturday, March 20

Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Call Steve Bublitz, 601-544-5444

For more info, contact

Discipleship & Family Ministry, MBCB

1-800-748-1651

Pray this day for...

October 16-29, 1998

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

Prayer's Influence on Evangelism

"A church that strives to evangelize its community without saturating its efforts in prayer is like a race car driver that jumps into a car at the starting line and discovers that the tank has not been filled with gas."

George Barna in Evangelism That Works

Poverty Awareness Day (CAC Emphasis). Of 1.9 billion church members worldwide, some 13% are in a state of absolute poverty. Of 79 countries where the average person is in absolute poverty 61% of those countries have churches growing faster than the population. Pray that countries that have more material things will not be distracted from Christianity.

Sunday School High Attendance Day (Sunday School Emphasis). Missionaries Steve and Kay Armstrong of Namibia request that we pray for their continued progress in gaining more fluency in the Afrikaans language.

More than 90% of all Americans own at least one Bible, but surveys indicate fewer than half of them actually read it. Pray that the American Bible Society's nationwide daily Bible reading program will succeed.

For the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, Baptist Building; for Ministers' Wives Conference, FBC, Jackson, sponsored by Church Administration Pastoral Ministries; for Lay Missions Conference, FBC, Jackson, sponsored by the Witness Team.

For Executive Committee Meeting; Baptist Building. Pray for Christians in Laos who are being tortured into revealing who is giving them Bibles by having boiling water poured down their throats.

For the Mississippi Baptist Convention, FBC, Jackson (27-28th). Pray that workers will find creative ways to help large numbers of people hear the gospel of Christ. Pray that God will be glorified and that millions will find salvation.

Pray that the Lord will provide someone to plan and administer the special training program for church members which the International Baptist Seminary of Buenos Aires will initiate in 1999. This program will be instrumental in encouraging churches throughout Argentina to start other churches.

For Bivo Ministers/Wives Breakfast, Baptist Building, sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries; for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting immediately following the last session.

A severe shortage of trained pastors in northern Ghana is one of the biggest challenges facing the Ghana Baptist Convention. Pray that students at the Pastors' Training School in Temale will be serious about their plains to become pastors and will learn quickly.

Chinese believers are organizing to help people who have lost homes and belongings in this summer's disastrous floods. Government officials, however, try to hinder relief work not sponsored by communist organizations, and conflict has erupted at times between church and government leaders. Ask God to encourage Chinese churches in their relief efforts.

For State Church Media Library Conference, FBC, Tupelo, sponsored by Dept. of Broadcast Services; for Women on Mission Celebration (16th-17th), Camp Lake Stevens, Oxford, sponsored by WMU.

16

Thank you for praying for the people of Bangladesh in the aftermath of one of the worst floods in their history. Give thanks to God for the way Southern Baptists are responding to the needs. Food distribution has begun to help most severely affected and the first shipment of medicine is expected to arrive soon.

Pray for churches who use a traditional style of worship or a contemporary style of worship. The most effective churches have identified their goals, evaluate how well they are facilitating worship, and respond accordingly. Pray that people will find what they are looking for as they worship - contact with God.

Ebenezer A. De Souza of Mobile, AL, is a catalytic missionary serving as port Chaplain at the International Seamen's Center. Pray that God will give him wisdom to be a light of hope to seafarers. Pray that he will continue to seize the opportunity to minister to all internationals regardless of their religions, cultural traditions, or race.

'99 State Singles Retreat

May 29-31, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Pass Christian (228-452-7261) • Visa cards accepted

Cost: "A" unit: \$90.60 (1 or 2 people) per person

"C" unit: \$83.60 (2 or more people) per person

JAMBOREE

4 p.m. on 29th

Gwen Williams, Miss Chocolate from New Orleans

David Adams, Minister with Singles, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.

Life Church Band and Praise Team, Laurel

CONFERENCE TRACKS

Prayerlife Fellowship/Games
Heaven Drama
Humor Grief and Suffering

Spiritual Warfare

Gwen Williams, New Orleans

Mission (Go and Do)

Steve Bublitz, Hattiesburg

Single Parenting/Divorce/Self-Esteem

James Haynes, Biloxi

• Night Swimming • Seafood Banquet

• Ice Cream

• Sunday Afternoon Adventures:

New Orleans, Swamp Trip,

Mission Adventures, Special Trips

• T-Shirts for those registering after 3/1 & before 5/1/99



J.J. Jasper

humorous disc jockey
American Family Radio
Tupelo

STAFF CHANGES

Cason Church, Nettleton, called Josh Roye to join its staff as youth minister. Roye has been working as a volunteer for several months with the youth. Wayne Brown is pastor.



Roye

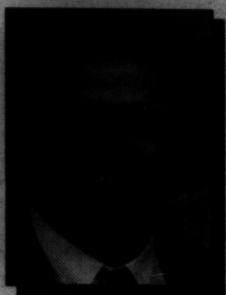
Sammy J. McDonald III was called as pastor of Lighthouse Church, Richland, effective Sept. 20. McDonald is a graduate of Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and Evangelical Christian University of America. He has pastored churches in Lawrence, Neshoba, Lincoln, Simpson, and Warren counties, and held other staff positions in Mississippi. McDonald can be contacted at (601) 845-1792.

Mike Alexander has resigned as pastor of Providence Church in Lawrence County. Alexander will be serving as a vocational evangelist and may be reached by calling (601) 684-3748.



Alexander

Johnny Mosley is the new minister of education and administration at First Church, Crystal Springs. A native of Cleveland, Tenn., Mosley graduated from the University of the State of New York and New Orleans



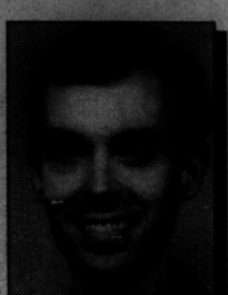
Mosley

Seminary. He served previously at Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, and First Church, Weston, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Paul Wilbourn resigned as pastor of Hepzibah Church, Lawrence Association, to go to Shiloh Church, Lawrence Association.

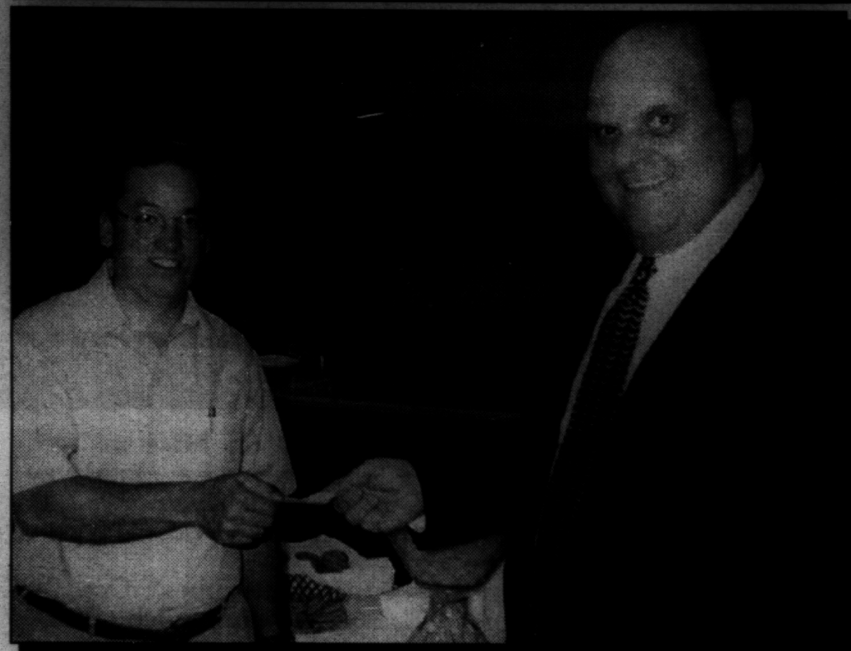
First Church, Jackson, recently called Andy Swanner, 28, as associate minister of music. Originally from

Winnsboro, Texas, Swanner received his education at Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary. He previously served as associate minister of music at First Church, Little Rock, Ark.



Swanner

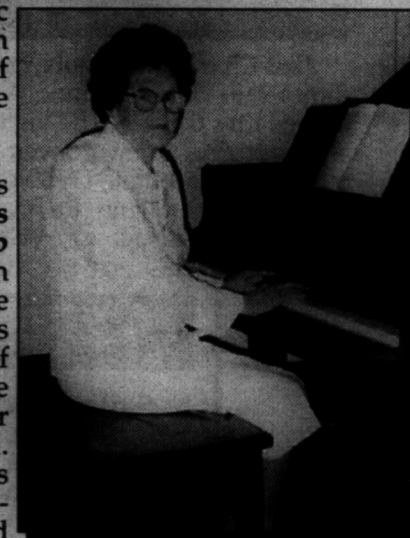
NAMES IN THE NEWS



Robert Gillis, pastor of Faith Church, West Point, is presented a check by Bill Ladd, chairman of deacons, to buy Bibles for his trip with a group to Ukraine in July.

the church," said Ronnie Shepard, music director. Stephen Lanier is pastor of Standing Pine Church.

AUSTIN, Texas (ABP) — Texas pastor Bob Ballance has been elected executive editor of Baptists Today, directors of the moderate Baptist newspaper have announced. Ballance, 40, is resigning as pastor of Highland Park Church, Austin, to take the job. He officially assumed duties with Baptists Today Oct. 1 but plans to remain in Austin a few weeks before moving to the newspaper's new offices in Macon, Ga.



Peoples

Mattie Belle Peoples has served as pianist for many years at Standing Pine Church, Leake Association. "Even today, at 93 years of age, Mattie can still give praise to the Lord with her music. She demonstrated her sharp musical skills when the Standing Pine Church recently purchased a new piano. She could not wait to try it out and soon thereafter played two or three songs for



Welcome to the Cell Church

A One Day Introduction to Cell Church Ministry

November 4, 1998
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

INFORMATION COVERED WILL INCLUDE:

Biblical Basis for Cell Groups
How Effective Cell Groups Function
How Evangelism works in the Cell Church
How to Mobilize Leadership for Growth
How Discipleship is accomplished in the Cell Structure
Children in Cell Groups

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Cost: Registration is: \$49 per person
Groups of 6 or more: \$39 per person

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Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association Fall Luncheon

(Tickets - \$10.00)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

COLONIAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON

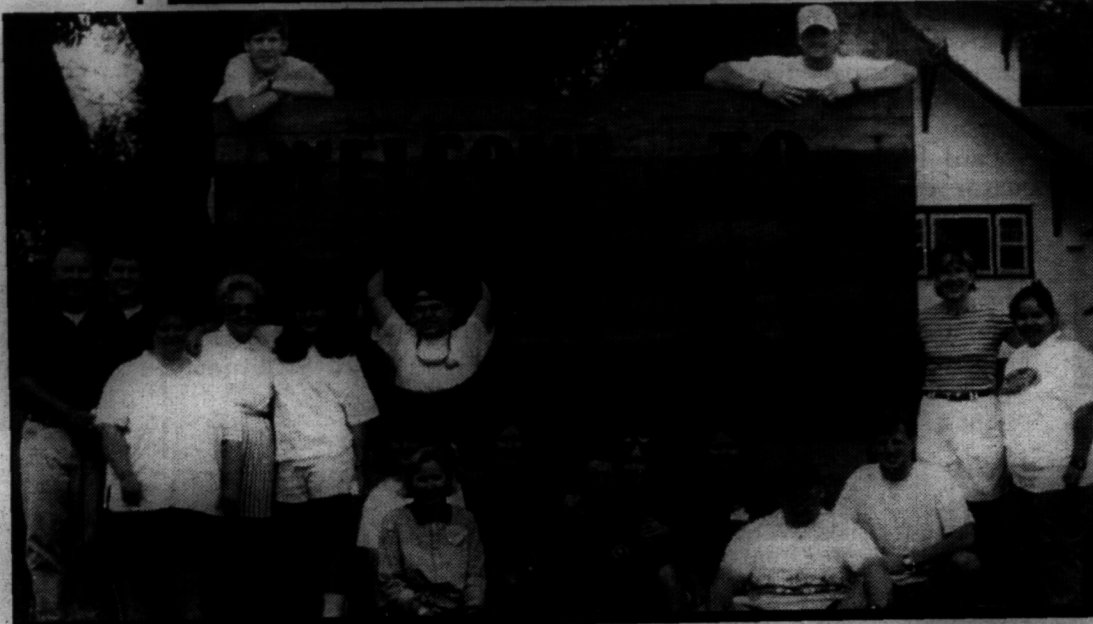
For reservations contact David Rogers, Main St. Baptist Church, 1101 N. Main St., Hattiesburg, MS 39401 (601) 544-5444



Stacy Andrews
Music

Dan Glenn was ordained to the gospel ministry by Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, on Sept. 13. Glenn currently serves at Harmony Church as associate pastor/minister of youth. Pictured are Dan West, camp manager, Central Hills Retreat; Clark Stewart, pastor; Glenn; and Nicki Barns, fiancée.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



First Church, Indianola, conducted Vacation Bible School and nightly revival services this summer in Otis, Colorado. While there they painted a house for members of the newly formed Otis Church. The highlights of the trip included a drive through the Rocky Mountains and baptizing a new convert in a water trough. Members of the mission team include (first row seated, from left) Debbie Aultman, Lewis Harrell, J.J. Holland; (second row seated from left) Candice Holland, Kathryn Barger, Elizabeth Barger, Kelly Lyles, Clark Carpenter; (standing) Greg Bowers (pastor), Will Quinn, Margie Holland, Frances Hurt, Stacy Pressgrove, Doug Aultman, Rita Fisher, Betty Melchor. Above the sign are Zach Thomas and Justin Casano.

Gospel Singing featuring Karen Peck and New River, The McKeithens, Perfect Heart, and The Freemans, will be held at 7 p.m. on Oct. 30 at Zion Hill Church, Wesson. For further information on tickets, call (601) 643-5847.

Wynndale Church, Terry, will have a celebration of 20 years of worship and fellowship on Oct. 25. Activities will include Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds following worship service; and the choir will perform "God For Us" at 1 p.m. Charles Gentry, pastor emeritus, will lead the worship service.

Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto, will have its annual Old Fashioned Day celebration on Oct. 18.

Activities will include Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; games, 1 p.m.; and guest gospel singing group, Mark Brown and "In His Honor," 2 p.m. Tim McCaffrey, Mt. Zion Church, will be guest speaker at the morning worship service. Danny Moss is pastor.

The Last Epistle, a monologue based on the conversion of the Apostle Paul, will be presented by John Maxwell at Hillcrest Church, Jackson, on Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. The monologue was written by Maxwell, creator of the internationally acclaimed "Oh, Mr. Faulkner, Do You Write?" For more information, call the church at (601) 371-3871.

Bethel Church, Brandon, will host Shelly Overby of Morton in concert on Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. For more information, call Overby at (601) 269-3327.

REVIVAL DATES

Shiloh, Oxford: Oct. 25-28; Sun., 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; David Skinner, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, Mid America Seminary, Germantown, Tenn., evangelist; Brad Thompson, Henderson, Tenn., music; Ronnie Mayes, interim pastor.

Bayou View, Gulfport: Oct. 18-21; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Paul Tsika, evangelist; and his wife Billie Kay will lead the revival entitled, Where He Leads I'll Go; Gerald and Cindy Simmons, Gulfport, music; for more information, call (228) 863-2482.

Campers on Mission: Oct. 18-21; fall revival at Brookway Church, Brookhaven; Sun., 11 a.m.; evenings services, 7 p.m.

Antioch (Holmes): Oct. 18-21; Sun., 11 a.m., lunch following morning service, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Carl White, associate editor, The Baptist Record, evangelist; Mike O'Brien, pastor.

First, Columbia: Nov. 1-4; James E. Messer Sr., evangelist.

Baxterville, Lumberton: Oct. 25-29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Don Kruse, Lumberton, evangelist; Scott Bourne, Seminary, music; Raymond Parkin, pastor.

Pope, Pope: Oct. 18 and 25; both Sunday services will begin at 6 p.m. with discipleship training at 5:30 p.m.; speakers will be Trent Grubbs, Ripley, on Oct. 18; and Kermit McGregor, Mendenhall, on Oct. 25; Jimmy C. Bryant, pastor.

Shiloh (Carroll): Oct. 18-21; Sun., 11 a.m.; weeknight services, 7:15 p.m.; Terry Long, Winona, guest speaker; Doug Warren, pastor, music.

Hillcrest, Jackson: Oct. 18-21; Sun., 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., lunch at 11:30 a.m., services at noon and 7 p.m.; Argile Smith, New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Mike Harland, Jackson, music; John Taylor, pastor.

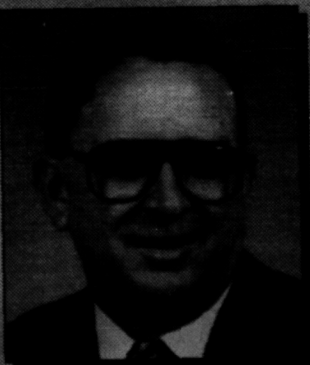
Lay Mission Conf. features listed

The annual meeting of the Agricultural Mission Fellowship is scheduled for 3 p.m. on October 26 at First Church, Jackson. No reservations are necessary to attend the conference.

Featured speaker for the annual meeting of the Agricultural Mission Fellowship will be Cliff Scarbrough. He and his wife Bettye are retired missionaries to Belize where they served since 1980.

Many Mississippi volunteers have worked with Cliff across the years. While serving in Belize, agricultural missions was a major focus of his ministry.

The 3 p.m. meeting will also include a report on each of the projects that Agricultural Missions members are currently supporting.



Scarbrough

Richard and Susan Lister will serve as the music ministry team for the Lay Mission Conference October 26 at First Church, Jackson. Richard presently serves as associate pastor and worship/praise minister of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson.



The Listers

Mission Fellowships and Interest Conferences begin at 3 p.m.

The Missions Banquet will begin at 5 p.m. Banquet tickets are \$8 each and can be purchased through the Brotherhood Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-

3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Jeff Brantley of the St. Louis Cardinals, and Gregory Komendant, executive director of the Ukraine Baptist Union, are featured speakers.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ASSOC. PASTOR/YOUTH MINISTER: Send resumes to Personnel Committee, Liberty Baptist Church, PO Box 73, Liberty, MS 39645.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/YOUTH DIRECTOR: Send resumes to Canaan Baptist Church, Youth Director Search Committee, 1008 Lehmborg Rd., Columbus, MS 39702.

EDUCATION/PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Northwest Baptist Association. Send resumes to: John L. Perkins, PO Box 381, Hernando, MS 38632.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC: Send resume to Providence Baptist Church, 263 Zumbro Road, Cleveland, MS 38732.

DAY CARE DIRECTOR - First Baptist Church of Gulfport is seeking qualified applicants of the position of Director. A degree in Early Childhood Education and/or daycare experience is desired. Please forward resumes to: Board of Directors, FBC Daycare, PO Box 70, Gulfport, MS 39502.

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COOL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH IN TATE, GA. is searching for a full-time minister of youth/education. Cool Springs is located along the I-575 corridor in beautiful north Georgia in an area that is fast becoming a bedroom community to north metro-Atlanta. Please send resume to Diana Brown, PO Box 22, Tate, Ga., 30107. Fax is 770-735-3805.

FULL-TIME DIRECTOR of children's ministry to administer daycare program of the church and coordinate church's ministry to children and their families. Church encourages school-teachers to consider God's leading into this opportunity of a career in Christian service. Address inquiries or resumes to Southwest Baptist Church, 6401 Scanlan, St. Louis, MO ATTN: Search Committee.

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FERRIDAY - First Church: full-time minister of education and youth; send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, PO Box 386, Ferriday, LA 71334.

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SWBTS trustee head accused of misconduct

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP and local reports) — The chairman of the Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) board of trustees has resigned the post after being suspended as pastor of his church, pending an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct.

According to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Ollin Collins, pastor of Harvest Church in Fort Worth, Texas, is being sued by two female church members

who claim they had sexual relationships with him during counseling sessions.

Church officials declined comment, and Collins reportedly could not be reached, having started a 60-day sabbatical in Hawaii.

Church leaders said in a Sunday-night worship service that both the congregation and Collins would be sued. In a letter sent Oct. 5, church leaders said Collins had been suspended

“immediately and indefinitely with full pay and benefits pending further investigations.”

Collins, a prominent pastor in the Fort Worth area, was a member of the SWBTS board of trustees that fired seminary President Russell Dilday in 1994. Collins later met with local pastors to defend the action and was acting chairman of the search committee which recommended Dilday's replacement.

Collins was elected chair-

man of the seminary's 40-member trustee board in March.

Harvest Church, which Collins started 20 years ago, has a \$5.8 million auditorium which seats 3,150. The church also has a school for kindergarten through grade 12, a day-care center and a family life center. Collins has said the church has visions of “becoming one of the few megachurches in the whole state of Texas.”

Gallman Church to celebrate 125th

Gallman Church, Gallman, will celebrate its 125th anniversary and homecoming on Oct. 25. Activities will include Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship services, 11 a.m.; and dinner will follow in fellowship hall. Charles Abby will deliver the message and Talmadge Smith will represent the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. Harold McLendon is pastor.

VBS RESULTS



During VBS this summer at First Church, Vicksburg, Billy and Carole Metz celebrated “50-plus” years of attendance. Billy and Carole are the children of Kate Metz. Eric J. Thomas is pastor.

Staying Well Informed

New Procedure Provides Relief From Chronic Heartburn

Indigestion. Difficulty sleeping after an evening meal. A burning sensation in the chest or abdomen. More than 18 million Americans suffer from these common, but extremely uncomfortable symptoms. The culprit? Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), more commonly known as *chronic heartburn*.

Heartburn occurs when the muscles operating the valve opening between the stomach and the esophagus become weak, allowing stomach acid or food to pass from the stomach back up into the esophagus. As any sufferer of heartburn knows, the sensation is far from pleasant. But a new procedure is providing relief for a great many people.

At Baptist, Dr. Anthony Petro and other surgeons perform the procedure, which is called a *laparoscopic nissen*. First, the surgeon makes five to six small incisions, creating a passageway for a laparoscope — a surgical device that houses a small video camera. The device transmits images from inside the body to a video monitor in the operating room. Using the video image as a guide, the surgeon then uses another instrument to actually wrap a part of the stomach around the lower part of the esophagus. This increases lower esophageal pressure, and thus prevents reflux.

Laparoscopic nissen requires no major incisions and reduces hospital stays significantly. Most patients are discharged the morning after surgery and can resume employment within a couple of weeks. Moreover, the procedure allows most of them to give up their heartburn medication altogether.

“Most people are happy after the videoscopic surgery,” notes Dr. Petro, “because it eliminates the need for a large incision which must be made during traditional or ‘open’ surgery.” Dr. Petro adds that “after undergoing this procedure, 95% of the patients have no reflux and are very satisfied.”

For more information about heartburn or this revolutionary new procedure, call Baptist at 1-800-948-6262.

Understanding the Benefits of Clinical Laparoscopic Surgery

For more information, call 1-800-948-6262.

Baptist
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BAPTIST STUDENT CENTER



A delegation of 1998 Vacation Bible School participants from Midway Church, Newton, recently presented a check for \$205 to Scott Vaughn (top right), BSU director, East Central Community College (ECCC), Decatur. The ECCC BSU was chosen by popular vote to be the recipient of the missions offerings. Wayne Miley is pastor.

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FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Deliberate manipulation

1 Kings 12:20, 25-33

By Greg Bowers

Although God knew the consequences that a monarchy would bring, he allowed the people to make their choice and a monarchy was instituted. It was largely a disappointment. Saul consulted a witch for advice. David's sin with Bathsheba brought harsh consequences. Solomon was influenced by his hundreds of wives and their strange religions. Toward the end of his reign, a prophet named Ahijah tore his coat into 12 pieces and gave ten of them to Jeroboam, the manager of Solomon's building projects. Symbolically, Ahijah was predicting the division of Israel. When Solomon died, the people assem-

bled to make his son, Rehoboam, king. Jeroboam capitalized upon the people's resentment of Solomon's tax practices. He led ten of the tribes to revolt against the house of David. They then crowned him king and he ruled the northern kingdom of Israel. He was an insecure, jealous, and manipulative crowd pleaser who began a long period of wickedness in the northern kingdom. It culminated with destruction at the hands of the Assyrians in 722 B.C.

Division (v. 20). Rehoboam, Solomon's son, had a golden opportunity to restore righteousness. He met with the northern tribes and promised an end to

Solomon's forced labor and high taxes. But he listened to poor advice and increased their work load and tax burden. The northern tribes revolted and crowned Jeroboam king. Only Judah followed Rehoboam. The kingdom was divided.

The northern kingdom was called Israel and the southern kingdom was called Judah. Modern politicians should learn from Rehoboam. When you promise to lower taxes, lower them!

Doubt (vv. 25-27). Jeroboam's greatest fear was that his people would return to Jerusalem to worship and reassert their allegiance to Rehoboam. In his insecurity, he even feared that they would try to assassinate him. His insecurity was groundless. In the previous chapter, Ahijah had told him that his kingdom was established by God and would continue as long as Jeroboam walked in

God's ways. Jeroboam disregarded that promise and built a new place of worship at Shechem, insuring that his people would never again need to travel to Jerusalem. When we begin to use our own wits to devise solutions to problems (real or imagined), we begin the long slide away from God.

Design (vv. 28-33). In his insecurity, Jeroboam committed four specific sins with regard to worship. Number one, he set up golden calves at Dan and Bethel (which means "house of God"). He told the people that the calves were the gods which had led them out of Egyptian captivity. Number two, he created high places at which the people committed idolatry. High places were elevated sites usually associated with pagan worship. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, and Amos all condemned high places. Jeroboam's third sin was the establishment of the new order of priests. Numbers 3 indi-

cated that all priests were to come from the tribe of Levi. Jeroboam's priests weren't Levites. They were men appointed by him and undoubtedly loyal to him and his sinful ways. Finally, Jeroboam scrapped the traditional Jewish feast calendar in favor of a new schedule of feasts and holy days. In chapter 13, a prophet condemned Jeroboam and his idolatrous ways.

Christians should be the most secure people in the world. We have been washed clean by Christ's blood and have been adopted into God's family. Our sins are forgiven. We have the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. Our name is recorded in the Lamb's book of life. There is no need for jealousy, insecurity, manipulation or any other device that Satan uses to separate us from our deep seated Christian joy.

Bowers is pastor of First Church, Indianola.

LIFE AND WORK

Promoting the faith

Acts 18:1-4, 18a, 19a, 24-26; Romans 16:3-4;
1 Corinthians 16:19

By Michael Johnson

One of my favorite movies is *Dead Poets' Society*. In the story line a teacher at an all boys school, John Keating, encourages his young students to think for themselves, driving home the point that words and ideas can change the world. One of the watchwords throughout the movie is *carpe diem*—seize the day! In a similar way, this week's lesson explores ways believers can seize opportunities to change people's lives through the sharing of our faith.

Being part of a team (Acts 18:1-4). Without a doubt, Paul was the premier promoter of the Christian witness in the

New Testament. While he followed his convictions and sometimes stood alone, he also found strength and comfort among friends.

Two individuals who became lifelong supporters of Paul's ministry were Aquila and Priscilla, which Paul first met in Corinth. This married couple had emigrated to Corinth, because of the edict of emperor Claudius in A.D. 49 which expelled Jews from Rome.

The Sunday School is often regarded as the 'outreach arm' of the church. Through proper organization and planning church members can be grouped and partnered for a more intentional witness. By

working as a team, the church will be able to draw on the various strengths and gifts of all members and become a more effective witness for Christ.

Learning from others (Acts 18:18a, 19a, 24-26). Not only is there 'strength in numbers' but when the church works as a unified

body, there is a clear focus on the objective. When everyone understands and works toward the same objective, chances for success increase dramatically!

Certainly the objective of Paul and his companions was to clearly communicate the good news that Jesus was the Messiah and salvation was available to all. While in Ephesus, however, the group encounters Apollos who with great zeal was preaching what he understood to be the gospel.

Without being given full details, we can only assume that Apollos needed further instruc-

tion in Christian truth and doctrine (Acts 18:26). Apparently, he was open to this correction, for in Acts 18:27 we see that the believers in Ephesus enthusiastically encourage and support Apollos' further ministry in Achaia.

Believers today should have the same objective as Paul; to clearly communicate the gospel. We must, therefore, become even more committed to the task of biblical teaching and preaching in our churches. We are obligated by the demands of the gospel, to become 'fully equipped' so that the witness we share is an accurate one; always open to further instruction and correction.

Do what we can (1 Corinthians 16:19). While not everyone has the same gifts, everyone can make an equal effort in the sharing of the faith. Aquila and Priscilla, while in Ephesus for example, offered their home as the church's meeting place. It is often said that 20% of the people in the

church do 80% of the work. What might happen to the witness of our churches if this statistic could be transformed to read that 100% of the people do 100% of the work?

Taking risks (Romans 16:3-4). Not only did Aquila and Priscilla work with Paul in Corinth and Ephesus, but was also with him in Rome, having on at least one occasion put their own lives in danger (Romans 16:3-4).

The call to salvation is always a call to service. This means that one puts personal concerns and interests secondary to that which is being served; in this case, the proclamation of the gospel. For the Christian this often means making sacrifices and taking on personal risks.

1 Peter reminds us that for Christ, this call to service cost him his life. What price are you and I willing to pay as we seek to promote the faith? *Carpe diem!*

Johnson is a professor in the Christian Studies and Philosophy Department at Mississippi College.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Waiting on God for deliverance

Exodus 14:9-16, 30-31; 15:1

By Walter M. Blackman

I used to love to watch the coyote chase the roadrunner on Saturday mornings. The coyote was frequently caught between a rock and something hard, but always survived to chase the speedy bird again. I admired the coyote's ability to survive each disaster.

The expression, 'caught between a rock and a hard place' describes the circumstance of God's people after leaving Egypt. Pharaoh changed his mind about releasing the Israelites and made preparations to pursue them. The Lord revealed Pharaoh's plan to Moses and told him to lead the people to the sea. With no place

to run, no place to hide, and no route of escape, the Israelites would have to wait on God to deliver them.

Feeling trapped (14:9-12). The Egyptian army of horses and chariots chased the Israelites to the edge of the sea. Though exactly where God wanted them to be, they were afraid of the Egyptian army and cried out to the Lord for help. The people of God forgot their deliverance at the mighty hand of the Lord and focused on the Egyptian threat of destruction. They preferred slavery over death. Christians often face similar feelings of being trapped. We face many enemies and destructive forces of life. Whether it is Satan, diseases, the

flesh, the world, or death, we do not like being placed in circumstances we cannot control or save ourselves. However, the Lord places us between the rocks of life and the hard places of his choosing to teach us the importance of faith.

Moving Forward (14:13-16). Fear and faith

do not walk together. Moses challenged the Israelites to have faith in the Lord to fight for them. Standing in the face of the enemy, seeing through the eyes of faith, and waiting for the Lord to work requires faith. It takes faith to move forward at the command of the Lord, especially when the circumstances of life seem impossible. Christians trapped in a life of poor health, financial catastrophe, broken dreams, and lost relationships need to hear the Lord's word to go forward. Where the way is blocked, God

will make a way. We must move forward and claim God's victory over our rocks and hard places.

Experiencing victory (14:30-31). The Israelites moved forward and the Lord divided the sea, making it possible for them to cross on dry land. The Egyptians pursued the Israelites, but were drowned in the sea when the Lord brought the water down upon them. The Lord worked and the Lord saved. If we are to experience victory in our lives, we must depend upon the Lord to work through us and not rely on our own abilities. The work of the Lord resulted in faith and fear; not the fear of life's circumstances, but an attitude of reverence and submission to a powerful God.

Celebrating deliverance (15:1). Moses led the people in a song service, praising the Lord for his mighty deliverance. The song focused on the Lord as the

giver of Israel's victory.

It will be the same way when we gather around the throne of God. The book of Revelation reveals the song of Moses will be sung in Heaven because of God's mighty work of redemption (Rev 15:3-4).

When we face circumstances in life that causes us to cry out, we need to become God-focused, not problem-focused. Sometimes, we must wait on the Lord to deliver us from the enemies of our faith. God is never late, but always on time. If the Lord tells us to go forward with our lives, even though it seems impossible, we must be prepared to step out in faith. God will make a way for us to follow him and experience victory. Our worship services will become victory celebrations when we are willing to wait, go forward, and depend on the Lord for our every need.

Blackman is pastor of First Church, Marion.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
e-mail: bcv1@misnet.com

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

SEPTEMBER 1-30, 1998 HONORS

Wesson BC WMU Leadership Team & RAs
Wesson BC WMU Director, Ann Ryan
Bro. James Bickham
East McComb BC 1973-74 Youth Choir
Louise Chamberlin
Eloise Crossley SSC, FBC-Columbus
George & Vivian Chambers
Ms. Cindy H. Shackleford
Mr. J. B. Coleman
Fidelis SSC, FBC-Greenwood
Helen and E. L. Crain
Ms. Jessica H. Germany
Mrs. Martha Earnest
Eloise Crossley SSC, FBC-Columbus
Trey & Brad Edmondson
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton W. Edmondson
Dr. & Mrs. Charlie Holcomb
Mrs. Malcolm W. Heard
Bro. Jimmy Magee
East McComb BC 1973-74 Youth Choir
Mr. Rick Munn
Ms. Lillian G. Hayward
Bro. Mike Sutton
East McComb BC 1973-74 Youth Choir
Mabel Swindol
Mrs. Nell H. Bourland
Mrs. Dan Tadlock
Hope SSC, Centerville BC
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Tolleson
Mr. & Mrs. Kermit Sideo

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Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields
Mrs. June Buckingham
Mrs. Charlene White
George Bunch
Mr. Harry R. Scott & Family
Mr. Sam Burnley
McAdams Baptist Church
Gaines Byram
Johnny, Joan, Glenn & Chris Sanders
R. B. Cathey
Mrs. Louise F. Cathey
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Betty Sue Clark
Dale & Cheryl Farmer
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Perry Griffith
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Come and See Us!

We will have our booth at the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 27 and 28. Make sure you come by and get a hot cup of coffee or a cold glass of our homemade BCV punch. Also, do not forget to come by early to get your 1998 limited edition BCV Christmas ornament.

We are looking forward to seeing you all.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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DOF RA KPR EOHOUJO
BAX IUFC JPUR IATEG:
SAT WOHPXGO AS
FCOGO FCURMG
HAKOFC FCO ITPFC AS
MAE XYAR FCO HCUD-
ETOR AS EUGA-
WOEUORHO.

OYCOGUPRG SUJO: GUL

Clue: L = X

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Four One.

Churches urged to prepare Y2K ministries

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Addressing the Y2K problem, or "millennium bug," that may cause widespread computer malfunctions at the turn of the century, Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention's executive committee, urged churches and their members "to study the matter seriously" for possible ministry opportunities in the midst of crisis.

Chapman, in his report to the executive committee at the opening of its Sept. 21-22 meeting in Nashville, noted, "The greatest potential problems could result not from personal or even mainframe computers, but the millions of embedded computer chips that the average person never sees or thinks about."

The potential computer crisis stems from early software programs employing only two digits to identify each year. Thus, many computers may not be able to determine that "00" means the year 2000, Chapman

explained of the possible crashes in modern computer technology.

"No one knows exactly what kind of disruptions in daily life may occur; therefore, you cannot make plans based on certainties," Chapman said.

"The questions are these: 'If significant disruptions occur, will I be prepared to provide for my family?'"

"Will my church be prepared to minister with a cup of cold water in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to those who have not yet prepared?"



lems for a few hours, few days, few weeks or even a few months.

"Will my church be ready to evangelize the unsaved at a time of heightened anxiety and insecurity when people are looking for answers and assistance? What is the extent of the investment I am willing to make in storing provisions with the knowledge that I do not know whether daily life will be disrupted?"

Chapman said there is no cause for panic, "but it could well create prob-

"I do not know, neither does anyone else," he said.

Chapman distributed a handout listing a number of Internet sites which can provide viable information about the Y2K problem but are not regarded as alarmist.

Among them:

◆ www.josephproject2000.org of the Joseph Project 2000, which organizes community events and seminars for the Christian community.

◆ www.cfcministry.org of financial analyst Larry Burkett's Christian Financial Concepts ministry.

◆ www.senate.gov/~ben-nett/y2k.html of Sen. Bob Bennett, chairman of the U.S. Senate Y2K Committee.

◆ www.year2000.com, generally recognized as the best Internet site for extensive Y2K information and updates.

◆ www.y2ktimebomb.com, providing columns by recognized industry experts on telecommunications, power, banking, etc.

Historic N.C. church's vote ends relationship with SBC

RALEIGH, N.C. (ABP) — Following a three-month study, members of the historic First Church of Raleigh, N.C., have voted overwhelmingly to end the congregation's 153-year relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Members of the church, which was established in 1812, voted 264-23 at a business meeting Sept. 23 in favor of a "resolution of identity" saying, "regretfully, we no longer identify our church with the Southern Baptist Convention."

Though the moderate church has a long history of disagreement with conservative leaders of the SBC, the final straw leading to the break was a denominational statement this June calling for wives to submit to their husbands. Another factor was the attendance at this year's convention by independent Baptist leader Jerry Falwell as a voting messenger, according to a report in the Sept. 25 Biblical Recorder newspaper.

The Raleigh News and Observer reported that church members described the vote as a general rejection of "authoritarian trends" that have emerged in the SBC since conservatives seized power two decades ago.

The church has not sent messengers to the SBC annual meeting since 1991 and no longer contributes to the national convention's unified budget. The congregation has continued to collect annual offerings for the support of Southern Baptist home and foreign missions, however.

The vote does not affect the church's relationship with Raleigh Association and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The resolution strongly affirmed ties with both groups.

"What this is really about is our identity," Mary Jon Roach, chairwoman of the church's denominational-relations committee told the News and Observer. "It's a matter of us saying to people around us: We don't approve of what the SBC is doing."

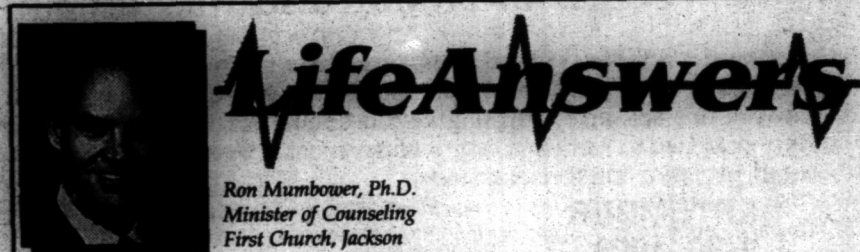
The church approved two amendments to the resolution, avoiding the word "disassociate" and removing language describing the SBC's "authoritarian leadership, its biblical literalism, its theological fundamentalism, and its departure from historical Baptist traditions."

The resolution noted that women have been serving as deacons at First Church since 1874, and that the church has been ordaining women to the ministry since 1982.

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Seminary and a leader in the SBC's conservative arm, said First Church and others that are leaving the convention "represent a liberal direction that has been running against Southern Baptist conviction for the latter half of this century."

Mohler predicted that only a few churches would follow First Church's lead. "The vast majority of Southern Baptist churches have made their convictions absolutely clear," he said.

Members of the 1,350-member church affirmed their pastor, Daniel Day, with a standing ovation for his leadership in the issue.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

With the Mississippi State Fair in full swing, how can I counsel my children not to blow all their money on chances to win cheap stuffed animals?

Accompany your children to these games of chance (yes, it's gambling). The few winners are always in the spotlight, but move your children's focus to the many people who don't win. Ask them to count the number of losers as opposed to winners. Clock the time it takes to either win a prize or run out of money. Have them study the faces of the people who don't win. Also, plan ahead by determining how much money each child will be allowed to spend at the fair. If your children remain persistent about the games after you've shown them the downside, supervise their play and stop them when their allowance runs out. If they have to leave the fair without eating the treats and riding the rides they wanted, they will have learned a valuable lesson about investing is such a foolish pastime. That's "tough love" on your part, but in a state like Mississippi saturated year-round with gambling opportunities, it's a lesson best learned sooner than later.

My wife expects me to be as charming as those hunks on her soap operas. We've been married 25 years. She knows I'm not that way.

Soap operas seldom present the Christian way of life and the hours devoted to watching them could be better spent, but think for a moment about what your wife is really trying to tell you. It could be as simple as, "I need the special attention from you that these guys give to their gals in the soap operas." Consider her feelings and the state of your marriage. You are in a danger zone for divorce. After 25 years together, much has changed — finances, children, careers, spiritual development, etc. — and the honeymoon has long been over. You should see this as an invitation to try some new things in your relationship. Don't be intimidated by the "hunks" on TV. Your wife is telling you that she would rather be loved by you than anyone else. We know soap operas are fantasy, but you can build a real-life fantasy for her by being close, intimate, and fun-loving. Treat her like a queen, as if she is the only person in the world for you. Then, after you pick her up off the ground, look into her eyes and you'll likely see a reigniting of the fire both of you once possessed for each other. Go for it!

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.